

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 18, 2012

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

Mr. Stuart Drown, Executive Director Little Hoover Commission 925 L Street, Suite 805 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Governor's Reorganization Plan (GRP)

Dear Mr. Drown,

I am the Director of Operations in the Governor's Office, and I will be testifying in support of creating a new Government Operations Agency (GOA), which is proposed in the Governor's Reorganization Plan (GRP). I was asked to address the issues the Commission should consider in evaluating the GRP's plan to create the GOA, the advantages and risks of the plan, and whether the reorganization will help the state to operate more effectively and efficiently.

The GOA will consolidate and coordinate the central management functions of state government. The new agency will consolidate a broad range of programs that service state agencies and employees, including procurement, information technology, personnel and employee relations and benefits, and management of state properties.

The new agency will include the Department of Human Resources (CalHR), Department of Technology, Department of General Services, Office of Administrative Law, Franchise Tax Board, State Personnel Board, Public Employees Retirement System, State Teachers Retirement System, and the Government Claims Board/Victim Compensation.

The proposal to consolidate these entities has wide-spread support, and for good reason. It will:

- simplify, strengthen, and improve the operation and management of programs that protect and provide services to state agencies and employees;
- help to eliminate duplicative processes;
- save money by promoting more efficiency and accountability;
- promote coordination and communication among state-service entities;
- facilitate a culture of service, instead of control;
- help to build broader state-wide, rather than narrow, perspectives in the agency's entities.

As a practical example of these benefits, the consolidation of these entities will help to improve the coordination and management of large information technology projects by making coordination and communication easier among the Department of General Services, the Department of Technology, and Cal HR. The State CIO will still have the authority and responsibility to control IT projects from their inception, but issues regarding effective procurements, stronger contracts and recruitment and retention of capable staff on the projects will be facilitated.

The State of California is too large and complex not to have a centralized administrative agency that will help make state government more efficient and effective. This plan presents few risks, and will achieve many benefits, and we ask the Commission to support it.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE KORLING-TORRES for:

SUE JOHNSRUD, DIRECTOR of OPERATIONS